

NATO



New Direction

the foundation for european reform



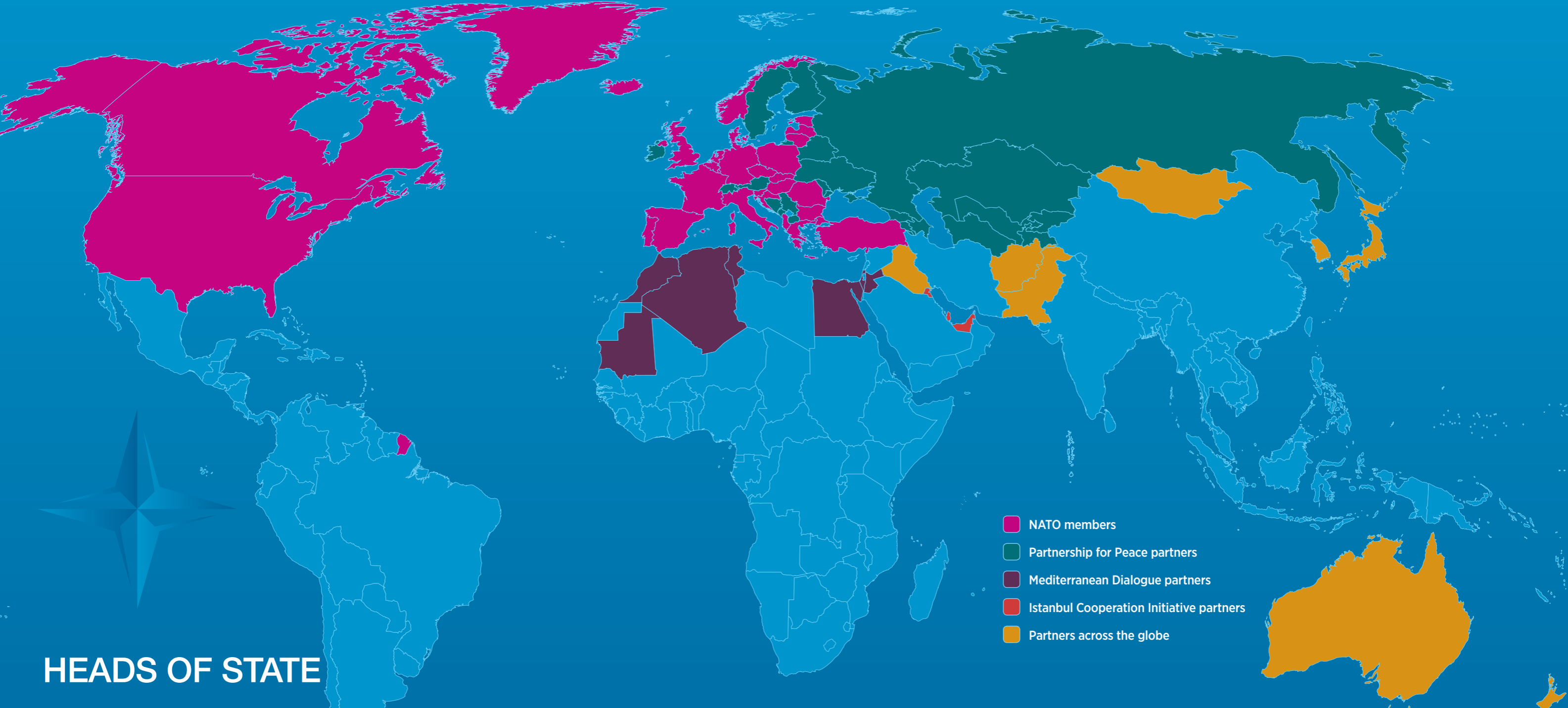
New Direction































A Brussels-based free market, euro-realist think-tank and publisher,
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10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NATO

Source: www.nato.int

1 An international Security Hub

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is one of the world's major international institutions. It is a political and military Alliance of 28 member countries from Europe and North America. The Alliance takes all its decisions by consensus. Every member country, no matter how large or small, has an equal say in discussions and decisions. Member states are committed to individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. These values are at the heart of NATO's transatlantic bond.

2 Collective Defence

The greatest responsibility of the Alliance is to protect and defend NATO's territory and populations. Article 5 of NATO's founding charter, the Washington Treaty, sets out the Alliance's collective defence commitment. It states that an attack on one shall be considered an attack on all. Article 5 has been invoked only once in NATO's history, on 12 September 2001, the day after the terrorist attacks on the United States.

3 NATO's Command Structure

NATO has a permanent, integrated military command structure where military and civilian personnel from all member states work together. The Alliance has two top-level Strategic Commands (Allied Command Operations, in Mons, Belgium, and Allied Command Transformation, in Norfolk, United States). Under these Strategic Commands are two Joint Force Commands (in Brunssum, Netherlands and in Naples, Italy) that can deploy and run military operations. The Command Structure also includes one air command (Ramstein, Germany), one land command (Izmir, Turkey) and one maritime command (Northwood, United Kingdom).

4 Standing forces

NATO has a number of standing forces on active duty that contribute to the Alliance's collective defence on a permanent basis. These include NATO's four standing maritime group fleets, which are ready to act when called upon. Additionally NATO has an integrated air defence system that links national air defence capabilities together and includes the Alliance's ballistic missile defence capabilities. The Alliance also conducts several air policing missions in which Allied fighter jets patrol the airspace of member nations who do not have fighter jets of their own. They defend NATO airspace over Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovenia on a 24/7 basis, 365 days per year.

5 Troops and Equipment

NATO benefits from being able to draw on the military expertise and capabilities of its members. This includes tanks, submarines or fighter jets. When the Alliance collectively decides to conduct an operation it asks Allies for troops and equipment to be placed under NATO command. While personnel serving in a NATO operation are often referred to collectively as "NATO forces," they are strictly speaking multinational forces from NATO member countries, and in some cases, partner countries or other troop-contributing countries. The only military equipment that NATO owns itself is a fleet of AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control) aircraft. From 2018, NATO will also operate five Global Hawk surveillance drones. The procedure for requesting forces and equipment for an operation is often referred to as "force generation."

NATO funding

6

Member countries make direct and indirect contributions to the costs of running NATO and implementing its policies and activities. The greatest part of these contributions is indirect and comes through the Allies' participation in NATO-led operations. Member countries incur the costs involved whenever they volunteer forces to participate in a NATO operation. For example the cost for providing a fighter jet lies with the nation that makes it available. Direct contributions to NATO's common budgets are made by members in accordance with an agreed cost-sharing formula based on relative Gross National Income. These contributions finance the costs of NATO's integrated structures, collectively-owned equipment or installations.

Deterrence

7

In the five decades after World War II, the Alliance successfully prevented the Cold War from becoming "hot". Under the security umbrella provided by NATO, the people of Europe, Canada, and the United States enjoyed the benefits of democratic choice, the rule of law and substantial economic growth. The Alliance's deterrence is based on an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional capabilities, which remain a core element of NATO's strategy. This is matched by Allies' commitment to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Crisis Management

8

The Alliance has frequently acted to uphold international peace and security. In 1995, NATO helped to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and implemented the peace agreement. In 1999, NATO helped to stop mass killings and expulsions in Kosovo, and NATO troops continue to serve in Kosovo to this day under a United Nations mandate. Since 2003, NATO's UN-mandated presence has helped to ensure Afghanistan will never again become a safe haven for terrorists. In 2011, NATO enforced a UN mandate to protect the people of Libya. NATO ships are fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia and are conducting counter-terrorism patrols in the Mediterranean. On several occasions, NATO forces have also delivered relief supplies, including to the United States after Hurricane Katrina and to Pakistan after the October 2005 earthquake. NATO Defence Ministers took swift decisions on 11 February 2016 to deploy ships to the Aegean Sea to support Greece and Turkey, as well as the European Union's border agency Frontex, in their efforts to tackle the refugee and migrant crisis. NATO's Standing Maritime Group 2 arrived in the Aegean Sea within 48 hours of the Ministers' decision.

Cooperative Security

9

Threats like terrorism, piracy, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and cyber warfare know no borders. That is why NATO has developed a global network of security partners that includes over 40 countries from around the globe, as well as international organisations including the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the African Union. The Alliance's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan includes 14 partner countries. NATO's operation in Kosovo includes 10 partners. Other than partners taking part in NATO missions and operations, the Alliance has developed a wide network of partnerships since the early 1990s, including the Euro-Atlantic Partnerships Council, the Mediterranean Dialogue, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, and many partners across the globe, including Australia, Japan and South Korea.

The "Open Door"

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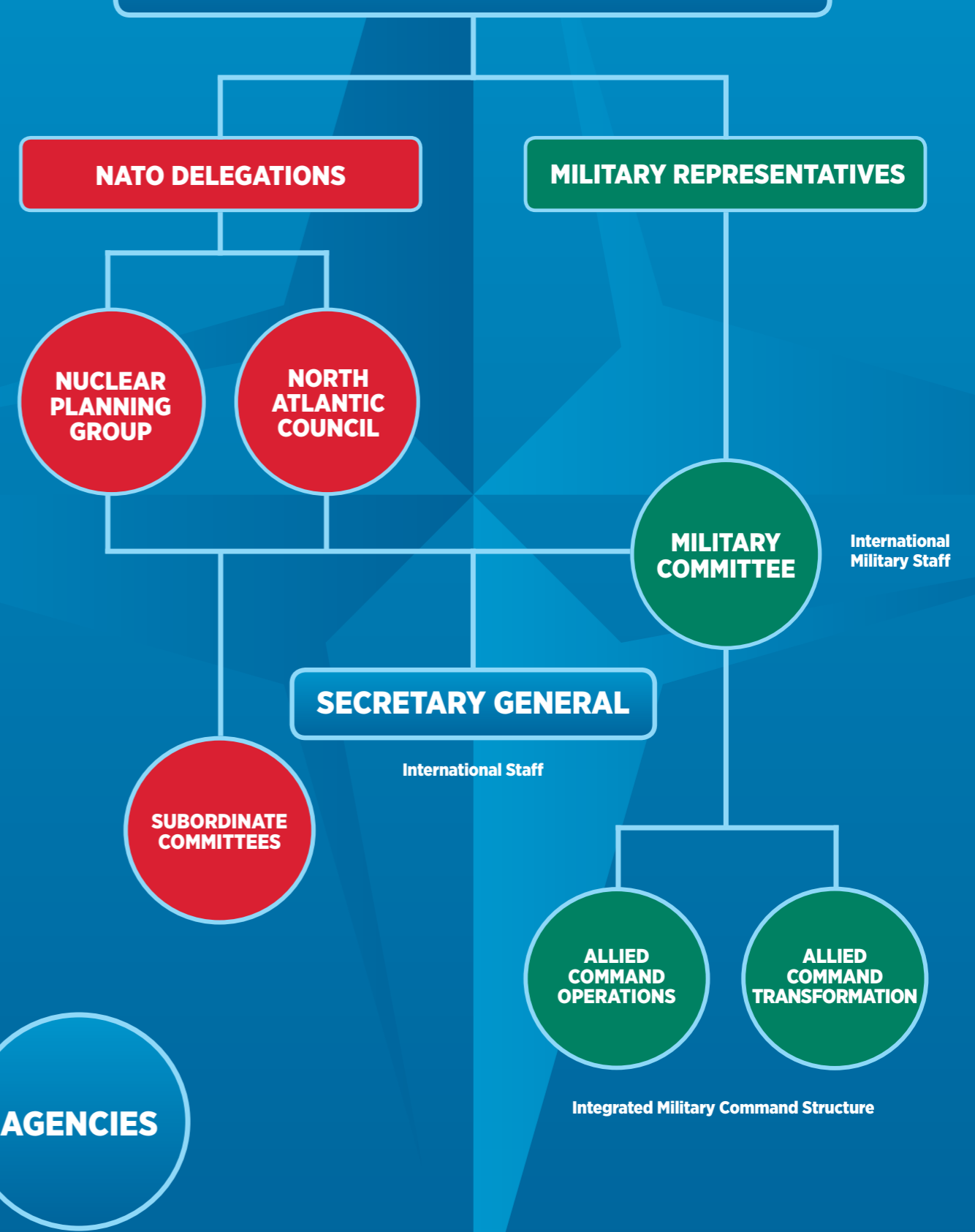
Any European state which can contribute to the security and principles of the Alliance can be invited to join. It is up to the country concerned to decide if it wishes to seek membership. On six occasions, between 1952 and 2009, a total of 16 European countries chose to seek membership and were admitted. This process has contributed to peace and security in Europe. Following the December 2015 decision by NATO Foreign Ministers to start accession talks, Montenegro is currently an invitee. At the moment, three further countries aspire to NATO membership: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.¹ Allies assess each applicant country according to its own merits. A wide range of political, economic and security reforms need to be implemented before any country can join.

1. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



NATO WORKING STRUCTURES

MEMBER COUNTRIES



NATO ON DUTY

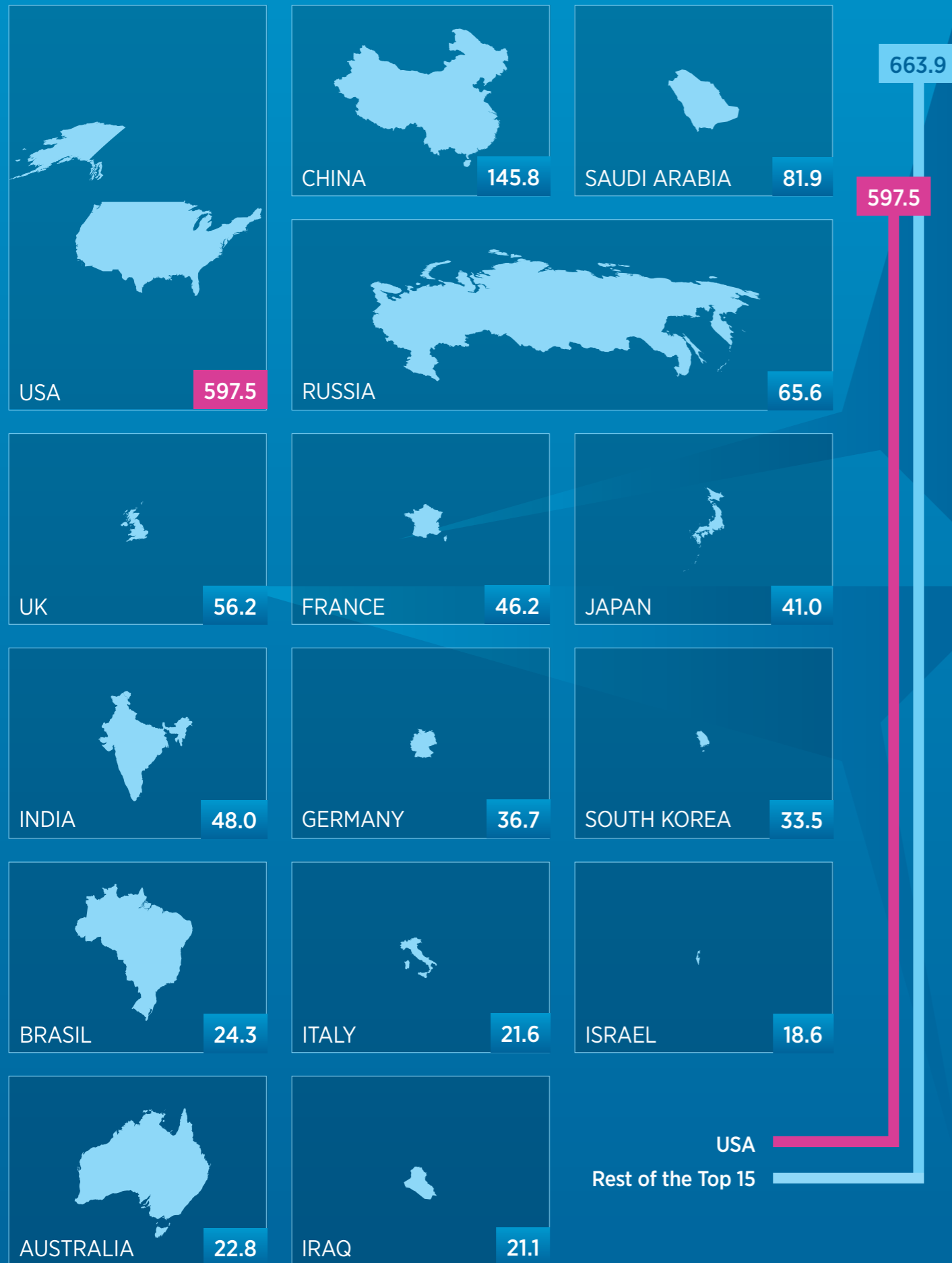
NATO MISSIONS & DEPLOYMENTS



- 1 ICELAND**
Since 2008, fighters aircraft have been deployed to provide a quick-reaction capability.
- 2 AWACS**
NATO maintains a fleet of AWACS aircraft as a deployable air command and control capability. These aircraft have been deployed to enhance NATO's situational awareness over Poland and Romania in the light of the Ukraine crisis.
- 3 AIR POLICING BALTIC STATES, SLOVENIA AND ALBANIA**
Aircraft from NATO Allies are assisting the Baltic States, Albania and Slovenia to preserve the integrity of their sovereign airspace in peacetime, and to ensure their collective security.
- 4 KFOR**
The NATO-led Kosovo Force is helping to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all people in Kosovo.
- 5 ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR**
After the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, NATO launched Operation Active Endeavour as an expression of the Alliance's collective defence against terrorism. NATO ships patrol the Mediterranean and monitor shipping to help deter, defend, disrupt and protect against terrorist activity.
- 6 NATO SUPPORT TO TURKEY**
On 4 December 2012 Patriot missiles batteries have been deployed to augment Turkey's air defences to defend the population and territory of Turkey in response to the Syrian crisis.
- 7 RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION (RSM)**
RSM is a non-combat mission which provides training, advice and assistance to Afghan security forces and institution which was launched on 1 January 2015.
- 8 SUPPORT TO THE AFRICAN UNION**
Since 2005, NATO has been providing different forms of support to the African Union at its request, including strategic air- and sealift, and providing expert and training support.
- 9 OCEAN SHIELD**
Operation Ocean Shield was launched in August 2009 to contribute to global efforts to fight piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa and build the capacity of countries in the region to combat piracy.
- 10 NATO DEPLOYMENT TO AEGEAN SEA 2016**
NATO has deployed ships to the Aegean Sea to support Allies Greece and Turkey, as well as the EU's border agency Frontex, in their efforts to tackle the migrant and refugee crisis.

WORLD DEFENCE BUDGETS 2015

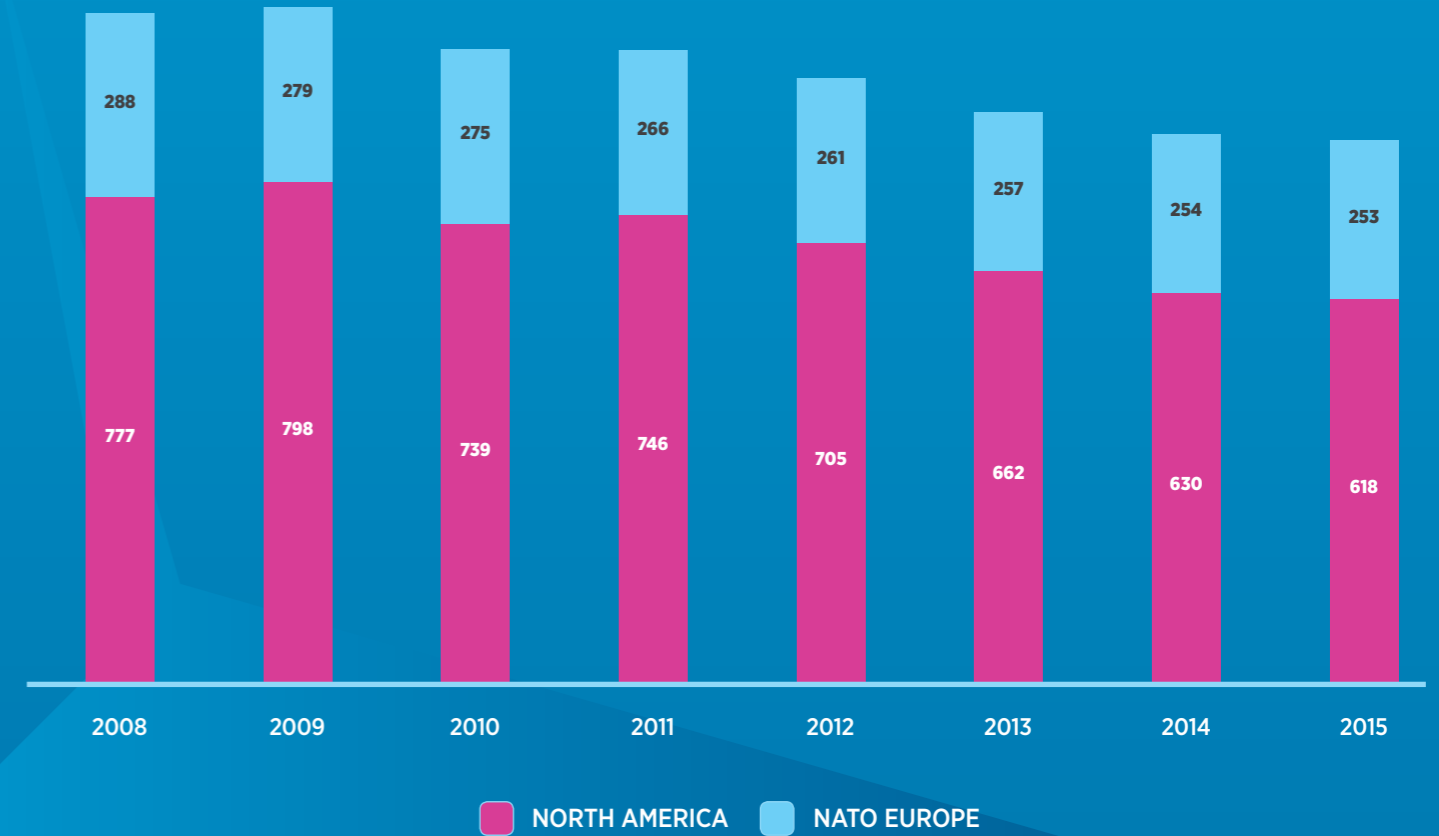
TOP 15 DEFENCE BUDGETS (BILLION US\$)



Source: "Top 15 Defence Budgets 2015", International Institute for Strategic Studies.

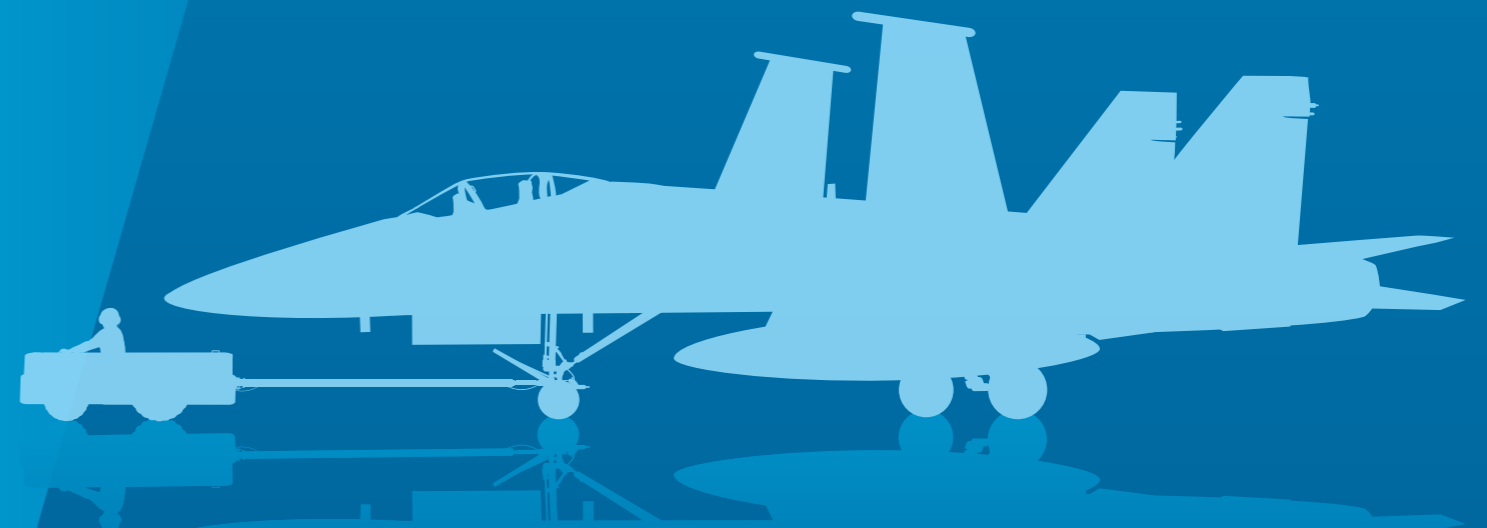
NORTH AMERICAN VS EUROPEAN EXPENDITURE LEVELS IN NATO

DEFENCE EXPENDITURES (BILLION US\$)



World military spending, while falling for the third year in a row should not hide the increase in Eastern Europe. However, current US military spending is still 45 per cent higher than in 2001, just before the 11 September terrorist attacks on the USA. Within the EU, the conflict in Ukraine is prompting central European countries, the Baltics states and the Nordic countries to increase military spending, reversing downward trends in military budget. However, Western Europe is not following a similar trend despite the fact that NATO is asking its member states to spend 2 per cent of GDP on military spending.

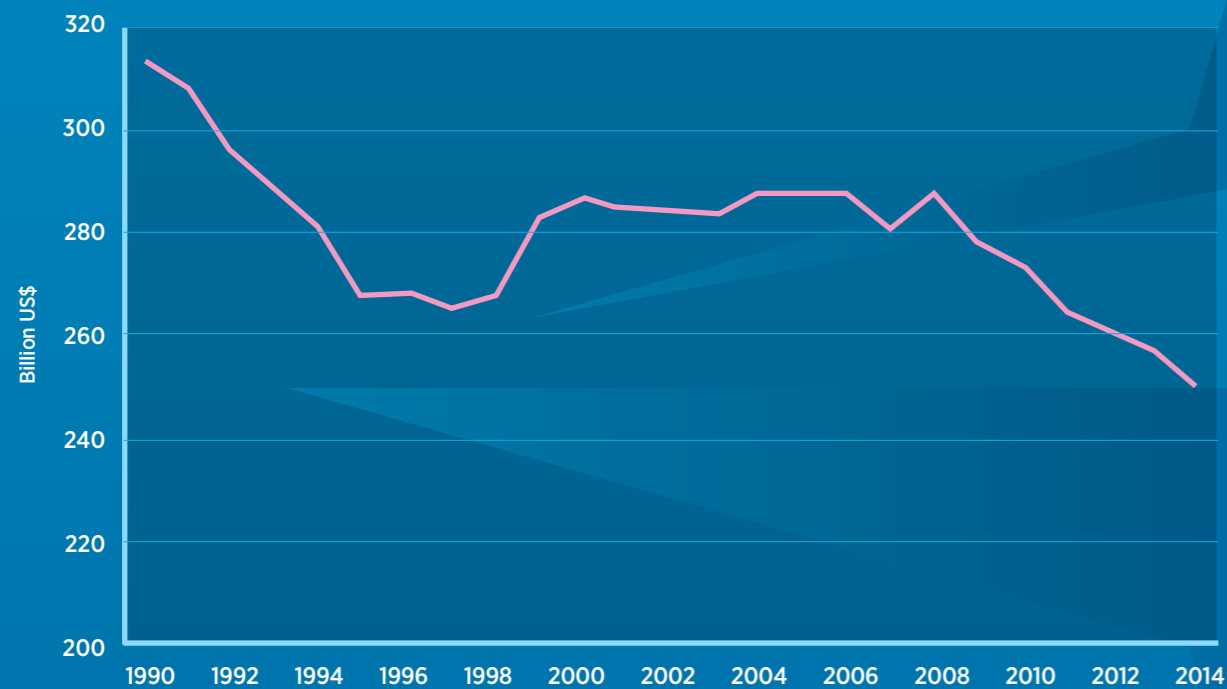
Source: NATO (2016) Defence Expenditures of NATO Countries (2008-2015)



NATO DEFENCE

ALLIANCE EXPENDITURE OVERALL 1990-2014

DEFENCE EXPENDITURES
NATO EUROPE (BILLION US\$)



The cuts to defence expenditures, deepened by the financial crisis, diminish the options available to the Alliance and reduces the extent to which Allies equitably share responsibilities. The defence investment pledge is an important signal that Allies are committed to addressing the mismatch between challenges faced and resources available.

In Wales, NATO leaders pledged to stop the cuts to defence budgets, to increase investment as economies recover, to make the most effective use of available funds, and to strive for a more balanced sharing of the costs and responsibilities of their common defence. This is the first time NATO Heads of State and Government have made this kind of commitment.

Source: NATO (2015) 'The Secretary General's Annual Report 2014', Chapter 2

SPENDING AS GDP

NATO DEFENCE SPENDING AS GDP



Source: NATO (2016) 'Defence Expenditures of NATO Countries (2008-2015)'

NATO-RUSSIA RELATIONS

NATO began reaching out to Russia in 1990. Over the following two decades, the Alliance proposed to Russia an unprecedented series of partnership initiatives and practical cooperation activities against common security challenges.



1990

LONDON SUMMIT: "NO LONGER ADVERSARIES"

On 5-6 July 1990, the NATO Summit in London proposed to the countries of the then Warsaw Pact a joint declaration stating that:

"We are no longer adversaries and reaffirm our intention to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state."

In this spirit, the Alliance invited President Mikhail Gorbachev and representatives of Central and Eastern European countries to address the North Atlantic Council.

The London Declaration emphasised the need to conclude arms control agreements and reduce reliance on nuclear weapons following the full withdrawal of Soviet forces from Central and Eastern European states. The Declaration stated NATO's determination to begin a major transformation and work with all the countries of Europe to create enduring peace on the continent.



1994

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE

In June 1994, Russia became the first country to join NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP), a programme of practical bilateral cooperation between NATO and partner countries.

The Brussels Summit Declaration defined the goals of PfP as expanding and intensifying political and military cooperation in Europe, increasing stability, diminishing threats to peace and building strengthened relationships by "promoting the spirit of practical cooperation and commitment to democratic principles that underpin our Alliance."



1997

THE NATO-RUSSIA FOUNDING ACT

On 27 May 1997, NATO leaders and President Boris Yeltsin signed the Founding Act, expressing their determination to "build together a lasting and inclusive peace in the Euro-Atlantic area on the principles of democracy and cooperative security."

The Act established the goal of cooperation in areas such as peacekeeping, arms control, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics and theatre missile defence.

In the Founding Act, NATO and Russia agreed to base their cooperation on the principles of human rights and civil liberties; refraining from the threat or use of force against each other or any other state; respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states and their inherent right to choose the means to ensure their own security; prevention of conflicts and dispute settlement by peaceful means.



2002-2008

COOPERATION THROUGH THE NATO-RUSSIA COUNCIL

On 28 May 2002 in Rome, NATO leaders and President Vladimir Putin signed a declaration, "NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality," establishing the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) as a consensus-based body of equal members. Russia was the only NATO partner offered such a privileged partnership. NATO and Russia declared to open a new page in relations aimed at "enhancing our ability to work together in areas of common interest and to stand together against common threats and risks to our security."

The NRC led to stronger cooperation in areas including counter-terrorism, crisis management, arms control and theatre missile defence. NATO and Russia cooperated to support the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. The joint work included Russian provision of transit routes for ISAF, counter-narcotics training for police and customs officers from the region and support for the Afghan army's helicopter fleet.

THE BACKGROUND

However, in March 2014, in response to Russia's aggressive actions against Ukraine, NATO suspended practical cooperation with Russia. At the same time, NATO has kept channels for communication with Russia open. This fact sheet sets out the key dates and events in the relationship.



2008

THE GEORGIA CRISIS

NATO found Russia's military action in Georgia to be "disproportionate and inconsistent with its peacekeeping role, as well as incompatible with the principles of peaceful conflict resolution set out in the Helsinki Final Act, the NATO-Russia Founding Act and the Rome Declaration."

At the Summit in Strasbourg and Kehl on 4 April 2009, NATO leaders recognised disagreements with Russia over Georgia but decided to resume practical and political cooperation. They also expressed readiness to make the NATO-Russia Council a more efficient vehicle for cooperation.



2010-2014

SEEKING A NEW STAGE OF COOPERATION

At a NATO-Russia Council held during the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, NATO leaders and President Dmitry Medvedev agreed to embark on "a new stage of cooperation towards a true strategic partnership", based on the goals and principles of the Founding Act and the NATO-Russia Rome Declaration.

NATO met its commitment to cooperation. The Alliance invited Russia to explore the potential for cooperation on missile defence. NATO and Russia agreed to reinforce cooperation against terrorism and piracy.

In the following years, NATO and Russia worked together in support of the Afghan army's helicopter fleet, conducted joint counter-piracy and submarine-rescue exercises, and discussed a joint military mission to help dispose of Syria's chemical weapons in 2013 and early 2014.



2014-2016

RESPONDING TO THE UKRAINE CRISIS

In March 2014, Russia illegally and illegitimately annexed Crimea, part of Ukraine's sovereign territory. In response, NATO Foreign Ministers decided to suspend all practical civilian and military cooperation with Russia on 1 April 2014. Since then, Russia has continued its aggressive actions against Ukraine, including through continued and deliberate destabilisation of eastern Ukraine. As a result, our cooperation remains suspended. However, channels for dialogue remain open. The NATO-Russia Council has met three times since the suspension of practical cooperation, most recently on 20 April 2016. The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General also engage regularly with their Russian counterparts.

At the Wales Summit in September 2014, NATO Heads of State and Government made it clear that the nature of the Alliance's relations with Russia and our aspiration for partnership will be contingent on us clear, constructive change in Russia's actions which demonstrates compliance with international law and its international obligations and responsibilities.



JULY 2016

STRENGTHENING THE EASTERN FLANK

NATO Head of States stated that 'Russia's destabilising actions and policies include: the ongoing illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea, the violation of sovereign borders by force; the deliberate destabilisation of eastern Ukraine; and provocative military activities near NATO borders, including in the Baltic and Black Sea regions and the Eastern Mediterranean; and its repeated violations of NATO Allied airspace.'

Therefore, NATO has responded to this changed security environment by enhancing its deterrence and defence posture, including by a forward presence in the eastern part of the Alliance, and by suspending all practical civilian and military cooperation between NATO and Russia.



Source: www.nato.int

MYTH 1 NATO is trying to encircle Russia.

FACT This claim ignores the facts of geography. Russia's land border is just over 20,000 kilometres long. Of that, 1,215 kilometres, or less than one-sixteenth, face current NATO members.

Claims that NATO is building bases around Russia are similarly groundless. Outside the territory of NATO nations, NATO only maintains a significant military presence in three places: Kosovo, Afghanistan, and at sea off the Horn of Africa. All three operations are carried out under United Nations mandate, and thus carry the approval of Russia, along with all other Security Council members. Before Russia's aggressive actions in Ukraine began, Russia provided logistical support to the Afghan mission, and cooperated directly with the counter-piracy operation, showing clearly that Russia viewed them as a benefit, not a threat.

NATO has partnership relationships with many countries in Europe and Asia. Such partnerships, which are requested by the partners in question, focus exclusively on issues agreed with them, such as disaster preparedness and relief, transparency, armed forces reform, and counter-terrorism. These partnerships cannot legitimately be considered a threat to Russia, or to any other country in the region, let alone an attempt at encirclement.

MYTH 2 NATO has tried to isolate or marginalise Russia.

FACT Since the early 1990s, the Alliance has consistently worked to build a cooperative relationship with Russia on areas of mutual interest.

NATO began reaching out, offering dialogue in place of confrontation, at the London NATO Summit of July 1990. In the following years, the Alliance promoted dialogue and cooperation by creating new fora, the Partnership for Peace (PfP) and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), open to the whole of Europe, including Russia.

In 1997 NATO and Russia signed the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, creating the NATO Russia Permanent Joint Council. In 2002 they upgraded that relationship, creating the NATO-Russia Council (NRC). They reaffirmed their commitment to the Founding Act at NATO-Russia summits in Rome in 2002 and in Lisbon in 2010.

Since the foundation of the NRC, NATO and Russia have worked together on issues ranging from counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism to submarine rescue and civil emergency planning. We set out to build a unique relationship with Russia, one based not just on mutual interests but also on cooperation and the shared objective for a Europe whole, free and at peace. No other partner has been offered a comparable relationship, nor a similar comprehensive institutional framework.

MYTH 3 NATO missile defence targets Russia and the Iran agreement proves it.

FACT NATO's missile defence system is not designed or directed against Russia. It does not pose a threat to Russia's strategic deterrent.

As explained by NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow, geography and physics make it impossible for the NATO system to shoot down Russian intercontinental missiles from NATO sites in Romania or Poland. Their capabilities are too limited, their planned numbers too few, and their locations too far south or too close to Russia to do so.

Russian officials have confirmed that the planned NATO shield will not, in fact, undermine Russia's deterrent. Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, Russia's missile defence envoy, said on January 26, 2015, that "neither the current, nor even the projected" missile defence system "could stop or cast doubt on Russia's strategic missile potential." Finally, the Russian claim that the framework agreement on Iran's nuclear programme obviates the need for NATO missile defence is wrong on two counts.

The Iranian agreement does not cover the proliferation of ballistic-missile technology which is an issue completely different from nuclear questions. Furthermore, NATO has repeatedly made clear that missile defence is not about any one country, but about the threat posed by proliferation more generally. In fact, over 30 countries have obtained, or are trying to obtain, ballistic missile technology.

The Iran framework agreement does not change those facts.

MYTH 4 NATO exercises are a provocation which threatens Russia.

FACT Every nation has the right to conduct exercises, as long as they do so within their international obligations, including notifying the actual numbers and providing observation opportunities when required.

In order to promote mutual trust and transparency, OSCE members are bound by the Vienna Document to inform one another in advance of exercises which include more than 9,000 troops, unless the exercises are snap tests of readiness.

NATO and Allies have consistently stood by the terms and the spirit of the Vienna Document. Those exercises which crossed the notification threshold were announced well in advance. This is why Russia was invited to send observers to the NATO exercise Trident Juncture in October- November 2015.

Russia, on the other hand, has repeatedly called snap exercises including tens of thousands of troops, with some of them taking place close to NATO territory. This practice of calling massive exercises without warning is a breach of the spirit of the Vienna Document, raising tension and undermining trust. This is especially the case because Russia's military takeover of Crimea was masked by exactly such a snap exercise.

It is therefore Russia's exercises, not NATO's, which are a threat to stability.

MYTH 5 NATO's Open Door policy creates new dividing lines in Europe and deepens existing ones.

FACT NATO's Open Door policy has helped close Cold War-era divisions in Europe. NATO enlargement has contributed to spreading democracy, security and stability further across Europe.

By choosing to adopt the standards and principles of NATO, aspirant countries gave their democracies the strongest possible anchor. And by taking the pledge to defend NATO, they received the pledge that NATO would protect them.

NATO membership is not imposed on countries. Each sovereign country has the right to choose for itself whether it joins any treaty or alliance.

This fundamental principle is enshrined in international agreements including the Helsinki Final Act which says that every state has the right "to belong or not to belong to international organisations, to be or not to be a party to bilateral or multilateral treaties including the right to be or not to be a party to treaties of alliance." And by signing the NATO-Russia Founding Act, Russia agreed to respect states' "inherent right to choose the means to ensure their own security."

Over the past 65 years, 28 countries have chosen freely, and in accordance with their domestic democratic processes, to join NATO. Not one has asked to leave. This is their sovereign choice. Article 13 of the Washington Treaty specifically gives Allies the right to leave should they wish to.



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